

"YOU CAN'T 4 AORE US."

Facts That Ought to Silence the Buck-
eye Fire Alarm.

To the Editor of THE ADVOCATE:

Among the banners carried in the People's party parade at McPherson on Saturday, October 8, 1892, was one bearing the above quoted inscription. I know not who wrote the banner, or first originated the idea that such a banner should appear, but doubtless the party or parties had some knowledge of the condition of the poor factory laborers in Mr. Foraker's own state, and the robber system as described by the labor commissioner of Ohio in his report to the general assembly, through the governor, the Hon. J. B. Foraker, in the year 1889, being the last year of the ex-governor's administration.

Considerable attention was paid to this banner. Many of our republican friends thought it was only used to cast reflection upon their honored guest. Whatever the intention may have been I do not know. As to its appropriateness, I shall leave that entirely with the reader after he has carefully read the following evidence coming directly from an officer of the ex-governor's administration. I have been informed by reliable republicans that the main part of the gentleman's remarks related to the tariff and the great benefits of the protective system to the American laborer and agriculturist.

Much has been said by republican orators in every part of Kansas about the preamble to the People's party platform; that its declarations were false and entirely without foundation; that our leaders are guilty of gross misrepresentation which should receive the condemnation of every free American citizen at the polls in November. That the reader may fully understand these objectionable features of the platform, I quote a few extracts which have been branded as infamous falsehoods by republicans, and then I ask that this commissioner's report be carefully read in order to determine if there is not some foundation for the statements made in the platform.

What is true in Ohio must likewise be true in other states, as Ohio is in no worse condition than her sister states. The following are some of the declarations so bitterly condemned:

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation: we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin: * * * the people are demoralized; * * * labor impoverished and the land concentrated in the hands of the capitalists; * * * the fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for the few; * * * from the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed two great classes—tramps and millionaires.

While the people of McPherson and surrounding counties have been electrified with the beauties of protection, and have been told that the present system carries joy into every home whose inmates secure employment at the hand of protected industry, I am sorry to say there is another side to this question which, if Gov. Foraker had seen fit to present it, would have shown his hearers that there is just cause for complaint.

Upon the women of this nation largely depends the perpetuity of our government, and therefore the condition of the woman workers of Ohio, which is likewise the condition of the same class in other states, appeals to every Christian mother, sister and daughter in this land that God, in his infinite mercy, may reveal a remedy for this condition; that these slaves of plutocracy may be emancipated and once more enjoy the blessings of liberty. Now, without further comment, I copy the following from the republican labor commissioner of the state of Ohio:

STATE OF OHIO,
BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF LABOR.
COLUMBUS, O., Nov. 15, 1889.

Joseph B. Foraker, Governor of Ohio:

Sir:—I have the honor to herewith trans-

mit to the general assembly, through you, the thirteenth annual report of the bureau of statistics of labor. A. D. FASSETT.

In submitting this, the thirteenth and last annual report of the bureau of statistics of labor, I have but little to say in the way of introduction.

The year 1889 has been one of great prosperity and commercial activity. In this connection it is pleasing to note that there have been but few strikes or lock-outs, and the relation of employer and employe has been as friendly and harmonious as it is possible for them to remain under the present overcrowded condition of the labor market.

On page 14, he says:

The average number of willing workers out of employment is fully equal to 15 per cent. of the whole number of laborers, skilled and unskilled.

On page 63, the commissioner quotes Carroll D. Wright, commissioner of the United States bureau of labor statistics, who says that fully 1,500,000 willing workers are out of employment.

Concerning the discontinuance of the office, the commissioner says:

I had expected to remain in office until February 15, 1891, the date when my commission expires. On February 24, a bill was introduced in the house of representatives by Mr. Gurner, of Richland county, changing the name of this department from the bureau of statistics of labor to the bureau of labor statistics. This bill passed the house March 13, and the senate March 27.

The slight change in the law had the effect of legislating the office of commissioner of statistics of labor out of existence, as well as my official connection with it. Upon the signing of such bill, my term of office expires.

Some of the tables deduced from the investigation of woman wage workers could not be completed in the three days allowed me. * * * Several strike and lock-out tables are omitted for the same reason, and a number of the counties must be left out of the industrial census table. I offer this as an explanation of some of the shortcomings that appear in this report.

The reader will readily see in whose interest the law was changed. Under the bureau of statistics of labor, the commissioner was required to make a correct statement of the following facts:

1. Number of establishments employing labor.
2. Amount of investment.
3. Number of hands employed.
4. Amount paid hands.
5. Amount paid for material.
6. Total amount of products.

Thus it was an easy matter to ascertain the net profit to the manufacturer, how much each employe earned for the employer, and the share of this profit that labor received, as I shall show from some of the quotations that follow. The imposition was too glaring to allow the people to be further informed upon that subject. Hence the change. The people must not be permitted to obtain this kind of information.

On page 23 of this report, I find the following:

This brings me into a consideration of the second suggestion—the demoralization of the gentler sex. In handling this branch of a most painful subject, I must necessarily wound the feelings of many worthy persons, but what I say shall be said in a spirit of kindness, confident that a brave statement of the truth will benefit most those wounded deepest. I shall proceed with this investigation in the spirit that the surgeon uses his knife on the patient he would restore to health.

Public sentiment can only be aroused in opposition to great wrongs by opposing them. Slavery could never have been abolished had the conscience of the nation not been quickened by exposure of the horrible details of slave life; and so of the horrors of factory life. Slavery itself was scarcely more degrading, its horrors scarcely more revolting, and its effects scarcely more damaging to good morals and good government than is fast becoming the result of the displacement of men in the workshops with women. As will be seen by reference to the tables, a large majority of the women are receiving less than \$200 per annum, an amount wholly insufficient to feed and clothe them.

It has been clearly shown how this competition reduces the male wage worker to the same conditions. This in itself is sufficient to quicken the conscience of the public to the dangers that are associated with this system; but however horrible this picture may be, the corroding and corrupting tendencies of the system are more alarming.

Continuing on page 24, the commissioner states "that the women grow to learn that their presence is hateful to the men, and they reciprocate in kind. So

the essential element for social advantage is wanting."

Mr. Editor, shall I shrink from my task to prove the terrible condition of the factory hand, or shall I quote the language of Gov. Foraker's commissioner of labor, where he continues to say:

Men and women are often employed in the same shops making immoral goods and goods that suggest immorality; they know the character of the goods and their uses, which only increase the moral degradation. (See preamble.)

Many of the workshops where the sexes are commingled have but one water-closet for both. (See preamble). Slavery furnished few scenes more demoralizing than are constantly occurring and recurring in such shops—men waiting to receive the key of the closet from women, and vice versa. (See preamble). Such scenes and others so revolting that a mention of them here would subject this bureau to criticism, help to divert women of those charms with which nature has so richly endowed her and that shine with such resplendent brilliancy while filling the sphere she naturally adorns.

After deploring the condition of the poor factory women, the commissioner remarks:

I find it much easier to criticize than to suggest a remedy. Legislation possibly can avail nothing except in a few minor cases.

* * * Something of the kind might be done by legislation that would smooth the rough surface over a little, but the cancer remains, gnawing its way deeper and deeper into our social system. (See preamble). It is indeed sad to contemplate the degradation to which this system is tending and be forced to admit in that connection that no adequate remedy can be suggested. The woman wage worker has come, and I fear has come to stay. She has not come as an angel in disguise, bearing blessings, but like a dreadful frost in midsummer, blighting, withering and destroying. She is in nearly all the factories working at starvation wages, displacing men wherever she appears. (See preamble). She is not only in the cigar, shoe, and tailor shops, but everywhere that wheels are moving in workshop or factory. She is in the glass factories, the planing mills, carriage and iron works, and wherever she is found she is doing the work of man at one-half man's wages. (See preamble.)

I have purposely or otherwise omitted the following sentence of the commissioner's report found on page 24:

I am not prepared to recommend the enactment of a law that would remove women from the workshops of Ohio as competitors of men. Such a law would be unjust to Ohio manufacturers, who must compete with manufacturers outside the state permitted to employ women; and yet it seems that nothing short of such enactment will remove the evil. It is sad, indeed, to contemplate the degradation to which this system is tending, and be forced to admit in that connection that no adequate remedy can be suggested.

Can it be possible that proud America and the loyal sons of freedom have allowed a system to be built up in their midst that has for its victims the innocent mothers and daughters of our fair land, dragging them down to the level of the beast, and no hope for them in the future? Then if there is no remedy for this, Christianity has fallen far short of its mission.

On page 28 I find the total number of women employed in the factories of Ohio to be 40,000, "working at starvation wages, displacing men wherever they appear." (Page 25. See preamble.)

On page 31 I find that these 40,000 women are supporting 13,000 dependents on "wages wholly inadequate to feed and clothe them." (See page 24.) Think of this horrid state of affairs in Ohio, while the ex-governor is in Kansas preaching the beauties of the present system.

On page 135 I find "General Summary of Industries." From this I take but two illustrations—the woolen and miscellaneous. The following figures will assist those seeking information to ascertain the beauties of protection to the manufacturer:

WOOLEN HOSIERY AND KNIT-GOODS.	
Average number hands employed.....	819
Capital.....	\$547,100 00
Amount paid to hands.....	145,308 00
Value of material.....	546,170 00
Value of products.....	932,040 00
Average amount paid each hand.....	178 22
Average earnings of each hand.....	442 00
Average net profit to manufacturer....	370 54
Or a net profit of \$231,682 on an invest-	

(Continued on page 11.)

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